



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 5a6
December 20, 2016

Ken Wagner, Ph.D.
Commissioner

December 20, 2016

TO: Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Ken Wagner, Ph.D., Commissioner *KW*

RE: **Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) - Request for Charter Expansion Amendment**

I present for your consideration a recommendation to deny the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts' request for an expansion.

Amendment Request for Expansion:

Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts (TAPA) is an independent charter located in Providence. TAPA currently is authorized to serve up to 204 students in grades 7-12 from Providence. TAPA requested an amendment to its charter to increase the charter's enrollment from 204 students to 250 students in grades 7-12.

In accordance to R.I.G.L. §16-77.3-3, requests for amendments to a charter for expansion require the action of the Council of Elementary and Secondary Education. Further, when considering the overall merits of a charter expansion, R.I.G.L. § 16-77.4-3 requires the Council to place substantial weight on the fiscal impact on the city or town, programmatic impact on the sending school district, and the educational impact on the students in the sending district to ensure that the proposal is economically prudent for the city or town, and academically prudent for the proposed sending school district and for all students in the sending district.

RIDE has conducted an in-depth review of the proposed amendment request, including TAPA's track record of academic performance, public feedback, and the impact that the proposed expansion request would have on local communities.

RIDE has concluded that, while TAPA has produced some commendable student outcomes, TAPA does not yet possess a clear, sustained track record of high academic performance. At the present time, the Commissioner recommends that the Council deny the proposed amendment for expansion for TAPA, and encourages TAPA to resubmit an expansion request once it has demonstrated a sustained track record of high academic performance.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to deny the Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts charter amendment for expansion.

Telephone (401)222-4600 Fax (401)222-6178 TTY (800)745-5555 Voice (800)745-6575 Website: www.ride.ri.gov

The Board of Regents does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, race, color, religion, national origin, or disability.